

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Frank Kenneth Crundwell et al.

Application No.: 10/528,184

Confirmation No.: 6757

Filed: May 31, 2005

Art Unit: N/A

For: HEAP LEACH PROCESS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, as it is filed:

(Check one of the boxes A-D)

- ☐ A. Within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.
- ☒ B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, or a first office action after filing a request for continued examination.
- ☐ C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary statement in box "i" below or paid the necessary fee in box "ii" below.

(check one of the boxes "i" and "ii" below:)

- ☐ i. Counsel states that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was

(check one of boxes (a) or (b))

- ☐ (a) first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
 - ☐ (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.
- ☐ ii. A check for the fee set forth in 1. 17(p), presently believed to be \$180, is enclosed.
- ☐ D. after (A), (B) and (C) above, but before payment of the issue fee: Applicant petitions under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(d) for the consideration of this IDS. Under 37 CFR 1.17(i) a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was
- (check one of boxes (a) or (b))
- ☐ (a) first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
 - ☐ (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

2. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form PTO/SB/08) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

(check boxes A, B and/or C and fill in blanks, if appropriate.)

- ☒ A. Pursuant to the Notice issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office dated July 11, 2003 waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy/copies of the United States Patent on PTO/SB08 is/are not being submitted.
- ☐ B. Document(s) _____ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) _____, and, in accordance with 1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.
- ☐ C. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior applications, which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

[SERIAL NO. & FILING DATE].

Applicant identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892, PTO-1449 and/or PTO/SB/08 from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh PTO/SB/08 listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with 1.98(d). Per 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

☐ 3. Cite Nos. _____ are not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicant states:

- ☐ An English translation of each document (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.
- ☐ The requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance of any foreign language document is satisfied by the attached search report; citation of the documents cited in the search report shall not be construed as an admission that they are or are considered to be, material to patentability of the subject matter claimed herein (See MPEP §609).
- ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is set forth as follows: [Insert concise explanation of relevance]
- ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ can be found on page(s) _____ of the specification.
- ☐ A concise explanation of document(s) _____ can be found on the attached sheet.

☒ 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

☐ 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

[A/An _____ Search Report, dated _____, which issued during the prosecution of _____ Application No. _____ which corresponds to the present application.]

6. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless other-wise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

CROSS REFERENCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.78 TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. (§1.78, Applicant notes that the above-identified patent application may be related to the following U.S. Patent Applications:

(1) U.S. Provisional Application Serial No _____, filed _____.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Date: July 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Peter Ludwig", written over a horizontal line.

S. Peter Ludwig
Registration No. 25,351
Attorney for Applicant(s)

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, N.Y. 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700

Substitute for form 1448A/B/PTO <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(Use as many sheets as necessary)</p>		Complete if Known Application Number 10/528,184 Filing Date May 31, 2005 First Named Inventor Frank Kenneth Crundwell Art Unit N/A Examiner Name Not Yet Assigned Attorney Docket Number 04634/0202648-USO	
Sheet	1	of	1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA*	US-6,383,458	05-07-2002	Brierley et al.	
	AB*	US-5,174,378	12-29-1992	Costerton et al.	
	AC*	US-5,873,927	02-23-1999	Schaffner et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Column, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	†*
		Country Code ² -Number ³ -Kind Code ³ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
	BA	AU-199060637	02-14-1991			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. * CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.889(c)(2)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IPW. † Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. † See Kinda Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. * Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WFO standard ST.3). * For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. * Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		†*
CA		MUNOZ J A et al.: "A study of the bioleaching of a Spanish uranium ore. Part I: A review of the bacterial leaching in the treatment of uranium ores"; HYDROMETALLURGY; ELSEVIER SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING CY, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 38, no. 1, 1 May 1995, pages 39-57, XP004040764, ISSN: 0304-386X.		
CB		Muir, L. and Brierley, J. The use of large scale test facilities in studies of the role of microorganisms in commercial leaching operations. Metallurgical Applications of bacterial leaching and related microbiological phenomena. L. Muir, A. Toma and J. Brierley. New York, Academic Press:491-520, 1978.		
		Boon, M. and J.J Heijnen. Gas-liquid mass transfer phenomena in bio-oxidation experiments of sulphide minerals. Hydrometallurgy 48(2):187-204, 1998.		
CD		Cathles, L.M. and Appa, J.A. A model of the dump leaching process that incorporates oxygen balance, heat balance, and air convection. Metallurgical Trans. Vol 6B pp 617-624, 1975		
CE		Ammou-Chokroum, M. P. Sen, et al. Electrooxidation of chalcopyrite in acid chloride medium: kinetics, stoichiometry and reaction mechanism. Thirteenth international mineral processing congress, Warsaw, Poland Elsevier Polish Scientific Publishers, 1981		
CF		Brierley, J. A. and C.L. Brierley. Microbial mining using thermophilic organisms. The thermophiles: General, Molecular and Applied Microbiology. T. D. Brock. Golden, John Wiley & Sons:279-305, 1986.		
CG		Muir, L. and Berry, V. Observations of a natural thermophilic microorganisms in the leaching of a large, experimental, copper-bearing waste body. Met.Trans. B 10B:523-531, 1979.		
CH		Rossi, G. Biohydrometallurgy. McGraw-Hill 1990.		
CI		Moreno, L. Martinez, J., Casas, J. Modelling of bioleaching copper sulphide in heaps or dumps. In: R. Amis, A. Ballester editors, 16th International Biohydrometallurgy Symposium, IBS 99, pages 443-451, 1999.		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.